

October 22, 2004

Chief, Policy and Compliance Division

Transmittal # 78 CHAMPVA Policy Manual

**PUBLICATIONS AND TRANSMITTAL CHANGE
FOR THE CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL (PM)**

1. Explanation of the changes and related index updates to the CHAMPVA PM are in the following summary.
2. This transmittal memorandum should be posted in the front of your CHAMPVA PM. The old/revised policies should be removed from your CHAMPVA PM and the new policy inserted.

Chapter 1, Section 4.1, CITI (CHAMPVA INHOUSE TREATMENT INITIATIVE).

- Adds related authority 42 USC 1395f(c).
- Under Policy Considerations adds clarification that beneficiaries do not have an option of waving benefits of another health insurance plan in order to place CHAMPVA as the primary payer.
- Under Exclusions corrects the regulatory reference that excludes Medicare beneficiaries from participating in the CITI program and adds that beneficiaries enrolled in a PPO or HMO cannot be treated at CITI facilities unless the PPO or HMO includes the CITI facility within their provider network.

Chapter 1, Section 4.2, MbM (MEDS BY MAIL).

- Under Policy adds that effective October 1, 2004, the CHAMPVA MbM Program has a second Servicing Center located in Dublin, Ga.

**Chapter 2, Section 15.1, EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES
(OFFICE VISITS) GENERAL.**

- Amends the Procedure Codes.

Chapter 2, Section 15.3, HOME VISITS.

- Amends the Procedure Codes.

Chapter 2, Section 22.5, BOTULINUM TOXIN A INJECTIONS.

- Under Effective Date adds July 20, 2004, for primary axillary hyperhidrosis.
- Amends the Procedure Codes.

- Under Policy adds that botulinum toxin A injections are covered for primary axillary hyperhidrosis.

Chapter 2, Section 23.1, PREVENTIVE SERVICES.

- Removes Policy Considerations.
- Under Exceptions adds other medically necessary genetic diagnostic tests, such as, genetic testing for Huntington's disease.
- Adds to Exclusions criteria previously listed in Policy Considerations.

Chapter 2, Section 26.9, PET (POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY).

- Under Effective Date adds October 1, 2003, for FDG PET for perfusion of the heart using ammonia N-13 tracer; and June 15, 2004, FDG PET for suspected (AD) Alzheimer's disease and (FTD) Fronto-temporal dementia.
- Under Policy adds criteria for PET scans concerning patients with known or suspected coronary artery disease and AD and FTD.
- Under Exclusions adds the use of FDG PET for patients with MCI (Mild Cognitive Impairment) or for patients with early dementia.

Chapter 2, Section 29.7, LAPAROSCOPIC SURGICAL PROCEDURES.

- Under Policy clarifies reimbursement for a laparoscopic technique will not exceed the CHAMPVA allowable for the equivalent standard surgical procedure.

Chapter 2, Section 29.8, LASER SURGERY.

- Under Authority corrects regulatory reference.
- Under Effective Date adds January 1, 2004, for treatment of varicose leg veins.
- Under Policy adds coverage criteria for endovenous laser ablation for varicose veins.
- Under Exclusions adds laser therapy (low level light therapy or cold laser) for pain relief for carpal tunnel syndrome, and use of laser to treat telangiectasis (spider veins).

Chapter 2, Section 31.5, SPK (SIMULTANEOUS PANCREAS-KIDNEY), PAK (PANCREAS AFTER KIDNEY), AND PTA (PANCREAS TRANSPLANT ALONE).

- Amends the Procedure Codes.
- Under Policy removes Type I diabetes; adds PTA (Pancreas-Transplantation Alone) and patient criteria.
- Under Policy Considerations adds documentation requirements by transplant evaluation team.
- Under Exceptions removes Type I diabetes.

Code Index. Amends index to add and delete codes referenced in this transmittal.

Subject Index. Amends index to add and delete changes referenced in this transmittal.

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